

Mansfield's Plan for Young Children Governance and Accountability

Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC) is a local advisory committee whose members are appointed by the Mayor and Town Council. 'MAC' advises the Council on issues related to young children in the age group of Birth to 8. MAC's governance structure is a hybrid: a combination of Formal and Informal Governance. Though MAC serves as an advisory body to the Town Council, it functions independently as a collaborative group, and works with a separate non-profit fiscal agent.

As stated in the Governance & Accountability section of our plan, MAC is the correct group to shepherd and guide the implementation of The Plan because: (a) it is a pre-existing group which is the only Early Childhood Collaborative in the community, serving as the overseer of School Readiness and Discovery; (b) it is recognized by and has productive ties with the local government and school system; (c) it could be easily connected with the implementation of the Mansfield 2020 Plan; (d) it retains some of the flexibility of an informal structure; and (e) it has a ready fiscal agent.

MAC has recently restructured to reflect its oversight of the Plan from this point on. (Please see MAC's new Organizational Chart*). In this organizational chart you can see that the community is the surrounding entity that informs the work to its core; work teams overlap with community because we draw people and resources from there; the Executive Council overlaps with the Work Teams, with members from the Executive Council serving on separate work teams to ensure smooth operations leading to focused implementation.

As a community-wide strategic plan, the structure reflects many ways in which the entire community may become involved either in an ongoing way or for a single element of the work. We have developed Teams to respond to the Strategies and Actions recommended in the plan which focus on Health, Successful Learners, and Community Connectedness. The duties of these Teams include those stated on page 27 of the Plan. We have utilized the tool called "Criteria to Consider for Choosing Strategies to Implement the First Two Years", and one of the Team Chairs has developed the attached two worksheets to break down the process for the Teams. The Teams who used those tools were able to eliminate strategies that were not developed enough or did not have the potential sought, as well as prioritizing remaining strategies.

We have enhanced membership by 6 new members, 3 of whom were active on the Plan's Leadership Work Group. Three new parents have also joined MAC. Our Executive Council is made up of the Co-Chairs, Secretary, Discovery/School Readiness Coordinator, and Team Chairs. With our new structure and new

members MAC is ready to recruit and engage more partners to move forward and implement our Plan.